

February 4, 2020

Amesbury Cultural Council

14 Cedar Street

Members present: Shannon Carrol(SC)-Co chair, Louisa Wilson(LW)-Co Chair,
Laura Kozlowski (LK)- Secretary, Susan Wagner (SW)- Treasurer , Cheryl Desjardins (CD)
Non- voting attendees: Delia Rinaldi(DR), Rebecca Jones(visiting from Merrimack) Elizabeth Hewes,
Lainie Senechal (LS)

I. Call to Order at 640pm (SC)

- Introductions: Rebecca Jones, visiting from Merrimack, an artist, interested in learning more about ACC.
- Approving of December minutes. CD made motion to approve, SW seconded, unanimous.

II. Retreat notes from January 23.2020.

- CD made motion to approve, SW seconded, unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Our cash flow is good, found some extra funds at City Hall so there is roughly a bit more than 16,000 in the account.

IV. Art at City Hall

- DR spoke to Jen from the Sparhawk School, they will meet again this week since she wants to look at the space but is excited for the show for April 3-July 10. If we take it down sooner, maybe we can put up the Chain Bridge Art.
- SC questions if it is fair to have one school showing their art but maybe next year we can have another school.
- LS feels it's best to open it to one school at a time
- SC would like to meet with DR this week to talk more about the details on the show, preparing for larger audience, and the best use of space at City Hall
- SC what do we all think about putting a budget into place for City Hall? All agreed more funds will be spent on the show during Amesbury Days.
- CD thinks it's a good idea to co-market with Sparhawk for the next show.
- SC says we will follow up on this next month, and LW agreed.

V. Grant Reception: March 18 6-8pm at Artist Muse

- SC confirmed the date and spoke with Mark Young who will play the guitar for 200 and he has already submitted invoice so he can get a check the day of the event.
- CD made motion to approve, SW seconded, unanimous.
- SC brought up design of rack card and graphics and is it necessary to post to social media and make posters? Public can come but its really for grant recipients and their friends and families.
- Agreed that electronic posts and invites may be the best.
- CD suggested an RSVP for the event, all agreed.
- SC RSVP to ACC by March 11 and will post in social media, get food, but not the excessive amounts of meat and cheese we had last year.

- SC asked CD if she brought a sample of the card from last year. CD showed sample, it was passed around. She suggested we keep just main officers on the front and highlight the mission more.
- DR asked if we had a list of grants
- SC hopes we can all try to attend some presentations and maybe get a monthly reminder.
- CD agrees it would be a good idea to show ACC representation
- All agree that emails and inquiries should go to the ACC Email address

VI. Studio Tour November 7-8

- SC asked what can we do differently about registration- Maybe paper notice and social media. CD said some people aren't connected on social media
- SC good opportunity to take turns and visit studios to remind them and get them to sign up in person.
- SW suggests save the date card? Put it under doors of studios?
- SC discussed food trucks and where they would go and what kinds

VII. Budgeting

- Discussed grants/fundraising and last year had a cushion but would like to have more events in the future.
- SC suggested maybe next meeting we dedicate some to this topic. Will have samples of the studio tour package since the old package hasn't been working too well. Would like to have commitment ahead of time from local businesses.
- SC/CD change up the layout, keep it shorter, more precise, maybe add statistics since people like to see how they are benefiting from the event.

VIII. Sub Committee Chairs

- Fundraising, mcc grants, social media/web/pr, studio chairs
- SC will be studio chair since she has knowledge of City Hall and previous experience
Looking for point people to give updates at monthly meetings.
- Will all think about this some more and discuss next meeting.

IX. Poet Laureate Report by Lainie Senechal

- Off to a roaring start, had a great turnout at Amesbury Poetry Night.
- Ellie O'Leary is doing monthly programs and wants to work through the summer.
- Thinking of relocating due to limited access at the Library for handicap individuals. Looking to move their meetings to Amesbury Senior Center for the Feb. 25 meeting.
- Would like poster support, for: *two contests, the Walk for Poetry, fundraiser at Flatbreads on August 11, Poetry Trivia night at Barewolf, Poetry and Nature lecture, March 12, Art and Poetry event at Merrimac library, "Hats off to Women" with a formal tea on March 22.*
- Need permission at City hall to hang a banner, SC volunteered to reach out to City Hall and will order new numbers for the banner.
- Would like flyers and bookmarks re-printed
- Would also like all the events up on the ACC website and on the google calendar
- CD agreed to do the graphic design and SC and LW said they would post.

XI. How do We Better Support the Poet Laureate Committee

- SC: Ideas from the retreat about having a liaison who is a voting member and someone who can attend monthly meetings . Need to promote a connection with ACC in print and social media.
- SW and SC will be the Liaison with the Poet Laureate and one or both will attend the March 9 meeting at 6:30pm
- Discussed a set budget like 25/month but if Ellie is working for most of the summer does this increase the stipend amount?
- SC asks it sounds fair if we give a stipend at the beginning of the year, with one check once we come up with a fair annual budget.
- LS agrees and thinks if once in a while it would be great to bring in a well- known Poet but they will need to get paid.
- SC says will make a decision on budget and discuss in next meeting but it will be decided before Poetry month. She feels it is important they get the support they need and maybe even establish a committee.

8:10 Closing Remarks

- SC: Thank you to Rebecca for visiting and suggests she can attend any first Tuesday of any month.
- CD Motion to adjourn, SW seconds, Unanimous

8:12pm Open Meeting Again

XII. Carriage House:

- SC mentioned that they approached ACC since they are applying for a grant, Essex County Creative and the money would go to the new Industrial History Museum but they would like a partnership with the ACC before they apply on Feb 15.
- LW if they don't get the grant, will they still want a partnership with us?
- CD/SC agreed on partnership.
- Benefits could be a new meeting space, applying for grants together, connect and help foster community outreach together.
- LW/SC will attend the meeting and report back next month
- All agreed the biggest concern is financial obligations.

- Motion to approve SC, CD seconded motion, Unanimous

8:17 Meeting to Adjourn

- CD motioned to adjourn, SC seconded motion, Unanimous